

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 PM-07 L-03 EB-11 COME-00 RSC-01

RSR-01 /042 W

----- 013858

R 212035Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4511

INFO CCGDSEVEN MIAMI

COMDT COGARD WASHDC

NMFS ST PETERSBURG FLA

UNCLAS NASSAU 1142

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS CGEN BF

SUBJ: F/V WINONA TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

REF: NASSAU 1131

1. ACCORDING TO THE ACTING HEAD OF THE MARINE DIVISION OF AHAMAS POLICE, THE WINONA WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY WITHIN THE CFZ ABOUT THREE MILES OFFSHORE. THE DISTANCE WAS DETERMINED VISUALLY BY THE POLICE BOAT COMMANDER. POLICE CLAIM THAT NO SHOOTING TOOK PLACE. HOWEVER, THE WINONA'S CAPTAIN TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT SOME 500 ROUNDS WERE FIRED AT THE BOAT AND WATER AROUND IT. COAST GUARD REPORTED MONITORING A RADION TRANSMISSION IN SPANISH WHICH MENTIONED FIRING.

2. THE CAPTAIN OF THE WINONA, JOSE SELPA (NOT SELPA PEPPY AS REPORTED REFTEL) AND TWO CREWMEMBERS, ABRAHAM MARTINEZ AND BRAULIO BORAR, HAVE PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO CHARGES OF POACHING IN BAHAMIAN WATERS. (NONE OF THE THREE ARE US CITIZENS). TRIAL HAS BEEN ADJOURNED UNTIL 2:30 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 23 IN FREEPORT. MEN BEING HELD IN CUSTODY AT FREEPORT CENTRAL POLICE STATION.

3. SELPA CLAIMS THAT HE WAS FISHING 15 MILES OFFSHORE AND HAD ENTERED BAHAMIAN WATERS TO SEEK SHELTER FROM HURRICANE

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"BRENDA" (WHICH WAS THEN SOME 500 MILES AWAY OFF YUCATAN)

AFTER EXPERIENCING ENGINE TROUBLE. SELPA'S WIFE IS IN FREE-PORT ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN A LAWYER AS HE DESIRES TO FIGHT THE CASE ARGUING THE RIGHT TO SEEK SHELTER IS A BASIC LAW OF THE SEA PRINCIPLE. FYI - A NMFS REPORT OF THE SURVEILLANCE MISSION CARRIED OUT BY THE USCGC DAUNTLESS (JULY 29-AUGUST 2, 1973) CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING ENTRY: "1022 JULY 20, SIGHTED F.V. WINONA, C1193 FISHING INSIDE THE CFZ, APPROXIMATELY THREE MILES WEST OF WALKER CAY. LOBSTER POTS WERE OBSERVED WEST AND NORTH OF WALKERS CAY INSIDE TERRITORIAL WATERS".

4. COMMENT

PAST EXPERIENCE MAKES CONVICTION A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. THE TWO CREWMEMBERS REPORTEDLY JUST LEFT THE WELFARE ROLLS TO TAKE THE JOB ABOARD THE WINONA. THUS THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR MEETING ANY FINE IMPOSED IS DOUBTFUL AND THEY WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO SERVE JAIL SENTENCES.
SPEAR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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